

of their power or authority to the central government in Kabul, preferring to fight for their own fiefdoms.

They have no interest in enforcing edicts from Kabul, or in taking any action that might give the central government additional legitimacy. Profits from opium production and trafficking are a key method for continuing to fund their war clan.

These efforts are not as blatant or as well organized as what we have in Colombia today, but the ingredients are there. It is time we start connecting the dots.

Today, several thousand U.S. and coalition soldiers are hunting down terrorists. These terrorists are receiving physical and financial support from somewhere. Meanwhile, the Karzai government is working furiously to establish the police, judicial, and military systems necessary to ensure that the people of Afghanistan can equitably govern themselves. But they must overcome the chaos created by 20 years of occupation and civil war. The last thing that they need is a well funded rebellion in their backyard.

The Karzai government recognizes the dangers posed by bumper crops of opium. They know the profits being generated by this drug production go not to the Afghani people, but to the few powerful enough to move the opium out of Afghanistan. These drug traffickers flourish in the same kind of lawless environment where terrorists train.

We need to start connecting the dots. We cannot continue to separate terrorism and narco-trafficking. I fear that if the United States narcotics policy in Afghanistan does not catch up to that of the Karzai government, we will be facing the same mess that we are working to clean up in Colombia. We have watched this pot before. We need to begin looking at our options now, before it boils over and we have a real mess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEWIS AND CLARK MOUNT HOOD WILDERNESS ACT OF 2004 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a draft legislative proposal I have developed and am soliciting comment from people in my State to add 160,000 acres of new wilderness in the Mount Hood National Forest.

The year 2004 is momentous for wilderness in Oregon. It marks the 40th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 20th anniversary of the last Oregon wilderness bill. Perhaps most importantly, 2004 marks the bicentennial of the single most important exploratory committee ever launched by the

Federal Government and that is the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

One way to mark this very special time would be to enact a new Oregon wilderness bill, which I could conceive of as the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2004. In tribute to the great river-dependent journey of Lewis and Clark, I believe it would also be appropriate to add four free-flowing stretches of rivers to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

In the last few years, Congress has protected some of my home State's most important treasures: Steens Mountain is now home to 170,000 acres of wilderness. The Little Sandy watershed is now part of the Bull Run Management unit and will help provide drinking water for over 700,000 Oregonians. Soda Mountain has been designated a national monument. Fort Clatsop National Memorial has been expanded, and this year it may be designated as Oregon's second national park.

The draft I have been discussing with my constituents would take a fresh look at protecting the lower elevation forests surrounding Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge. These forests symbolize the natural beauty of my home State. They provide the clean water for the biological survival of threatened steelhead, Coho, and Chinook salmon. These forests provide critical habitat and diverse ecosystems for elk, deer, and of course the majestic bald eagle. These are the forests that provide unparalleled recreational opportunities for millions of Oregonians and all of our visitors.

Mount Hood is the highest mountain in my home State. Captain Clark described it as "a mountain of immense height, covered with snow," while John Muir described Mount Hood a bit more poetically as "one glorious manifestation of divine power."

"Wy'East" is the American Indian name for Mount Hood. Before Lewis and Clark came to what we now know as my home State, these forests and species they supported in turn supported native Indians for thousands of years. These are the forests that connect the high elevation snowfields with the rich, diverse lower valleys that produce our famous salmon which were described as so plentiful one could walk across the river on their backs.

Although the history of Mount Hood and her environs are fascinating, the need to designate these areas as protected wilderness and wild and scenic rivers is best expressed by the very modern stories of increased pressures from development and recreational use that are at the heart of our State's future.

The need to protect and build on Oregon's wilderness system that is as important now as it was in 1804, 1964, or 1984. There are currently 189,200 acres of designated wilderness on the Mount Hood National Forest. I believe it would be appropriate this year, 2004, to discuss a draft bill which would almost

double that amount by designating approximately 160,000 new acres of wilderness thereby lessening the pressures of overuse while also staving off the threat of development.

Today, the economic role of these important public lands has shifted. Communities on the highway to Mount Hood often market themselves as the "Gateway to Mount Hood," and see this as a special opportunity to improve their tourism.

They should. On weekends, crowds of Oregonians come out of the cities seeking a natural and often wild experience. In the 20 years that has elapsed since any new wilderness has been designated in the Mount Hood area, the population in the local counties has increased significantly—20 percent in my home county of Multnomah, 24 percent in Hood River County, and 41 percent in Clackamas County.

With increasing emphasis on wild scenery, unspoiled wildlife habitats, free flowing rivers, wilderness, and the need for opportunities for diverse outdoor recreation, it seems to me that very often we are in jeopardy of losing our wild places to death. A few years ago, the Forest Service made a proposal to limit the number of people who could hike the south side of Mount Hood. I can tell you the public outcry was staggering.

So it seems to me, rather than to tell people they are going to be restricted from using our public lands, the solution lies in providing more opportunities for them to enjoy our great places. I have heard from community after community that they fear a threat to their local drinking water or the need for further protections from development. Congressional statutory designation as wilderness provides the only real protection of the historic, scientific, cultural, environmental, scenic, and recreational values that contribute to the quality of life of which the people of my State are so proud.

The protection of the special Oregon places is going to depend on the hard work and dedication of all Oregonians, and especially my colleagues in the Congress.

I have had a chance already to discuss this with Senator SMITH. He and I always work in a bipartisan way. As always, he has been very gracious with respect to saying he would work with me and will join me in listening to the people of Oregon.

I have also been pleased today to be able to talk to Congressman WALDEN, who is the new chair of an important subcommittee who will be in a position to listen to the people of our State, take their ideas, and take their input on this draft. I also have talked to Congressman BLUMENAUER today, who represents the congressional district that I was so proud to represent for 15 years in the House of Representatives.

I believe the four of us in particular will take the time now to listen to the people of our State, the county commissioners, the environmentalists, the

entrepreneurs, the chambers of commerce, the Governor, various State-elected officials who have an interest in this issue, and other interested parties and work to try to get this important work done in the right fashion.

I have been very proud to have been involved in two natural resource efforts in the last few years where people thought the polarization was so great that you could not get anything done. With respect to the county payments legislation Senator CRAIG and I teamed up on a matter that was absolutely critical to funding schools and roads. We worked in a bipartisan way, listened to people, and got an important piece of legislation passed.

We did the same thing with respect to forest health legislation earlier in this Congress. People said we couldn't get a bill out of the Senate. A lot of people of good will, including the Presiding Officer tonight, came together and we got 80 votes for it in the Senate.

When you listen to people, it is possible to get important natural resources legislation passed. I think it would be very appropriate to take the draft I am now circulating to the people of Oregon, spend the necessary time listening to people of our State, and turn it into legislation that could be considered formally by the Congress and perfect it in the coming weeks and days ahead. Congress ought to try to pass this legislation after listening to the people of my home State. The grandeur of Mount Hood and other Oregon treasures can be assured for future generations if we can come together and approach this in a bipartisan way.

That is what I am committed to doing based on my conversations today with Congressman WALDEN and Congressman BLUMENAUER, the Members who are most affected by the legislation, and Senator SMITH who has joined me so often. I am convinced our delegation is committed to doing this job right, recognizing that 2004 is a momentous year for wilderness in our State.

I would very much like to see the people of our State, working with our congressional delegation, coming together and passing a Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2004. We have a lot of work ahead of us in the days ahead, but we are committed to approaching this in a responsible and bipartisan fashion. I want to tell the people of my State I think it would be exciting to make sure that we could take steps in this session to ensure that, for the millions who will come to visit Mount Hood in the days ahead, we have acted to preserve the grandeur of this spectacular treasure.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few minutes we will be closing for the evening, but over the next several minutes I would like to comment on a couple of events from today, and then, in closing, we will talk a bit about what to expect over the next several days and next week.

CONGRESS BUILDING AMERICA NATIONAL BUILD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I, first, would like to comment on the way my day began. It happened to begin with the distinguished Presiding officer, the Senator from Minnesota, early this morning, as we engaged in a project that many people around the country have participated in. For those who have not, I hope they do participate in it; and that is, to build—I was not going to say a house—but, indeed, a home as part of Habitat for Humanity.

Not too far from here—about 15 minutes from our Nation's Capitol—there is a plot of land. We have been blessed in many ways because, right now, we have been part of a group of people who put up several houses. We did not put them all up today, but eventually that whole site—and it is probably a couple-acre site; actually, it must be larger than that—will have 50 different houses with individual homeowners, families who will call those houses their homes.

Many of those people have no homes today, but they have devoted a fair amount of planning, with their sweat and their equity and their spirit, in helping to construct these houses through Habitat for Humanity.

We were there with a number of House Members and Senate Members. It was bipartisan, bicameral. It was part of what is called "Congress Building America." Today was called: "Congress Building America National Build."

It was a great celebration this morning. Millard Fuller was there. Millard Fuller is the man who had the vision and the heart to first think of and then lay out and then implement Habitat for Humanity International. His commitment reflects a merging, a coming together of faith, a call to service. He has professional training. He has been a very successful attorney. We had an opportunity to congratulate him, but also to spend most of the morning working side by side with him.

Millard is a fascinating individual. He travels around the world both promoting and educating people about Habitat for Humanity. I talked to him a bit this morning about recent trips I have had the opportunity to make, again, one with the Presiding Officer to Africa, where, to me, we have a great opportunity, but also there is great hope, as we look at that continent today.

This morning there were teams of five or six people who worked together, with a leader in that team. I was not

the leader for those 3 to 4 hours. We had a young woman by the name of Dawn, who is part of the AmeriCorps affiliation with Habitat for Humanity, who walked us through the construction of this house that was nothing but a slab of concrete, but by the time we left, it had the walls up around it.

But part of my team was also Charliisa Tomlinson. Charliisa is the owner of the home, who began, about 2 years ago, with this dream, and now, with her three children there today, participated in the construction of that very house.

As we put up that last wall, and there was a window there, and we looked out the window, I asked: Whose bedroom is this going to be? She very quickly told me which child's bedroom it was going to be.

She has been very active in her church, very active in her community. The realization of her family's dream shows us how powerful volunteers can be, how the very best of the public sector, Government, which funds, in part, Habitat for Humanity, and the 10 or 15 sponsors, organizations, companies that invest, and invest heavily, in support of Habitat for Humanity can come together.

I thank my colleagues because this is the first year we have had broad bipartisan, bicameral participation. A number of Senators have gone out and participated before, but today we broke all records in terms of Senate participation in this wonderful, wonderful project.

We were there to demonstrate our commitment, as elected leaders. I should also add that the spouses of the Senators were there as well throughout the morning. They even stayed into the afternoon. But we really were there to demonstrate our commitment, our deep, personal commitment to affordable home ownership for low-income American families.

We were also there to show our appreciation for faith-based groups and other nonprofits such as Habitat for Humanity that do provide these critical services to individuals and families in need across America.

Home ownership is such an essential part of our lives, of our social investments, of our economic investments. It is empowering to families. It is empowering to communities. It contributes economic vitality to areas and regions in communities where these beautiful new homes arise. So it was an exciting project this morning. We have done a lot.

As we were there and looking around, we saw the AmeriCorps volunteers. There was a group of college students from Cornell who, instead of going where 99.9 percent of the college students go—to vacation, which I guess is Florida or the west coast or to warmer weather—dedicated their spring vacation to being there and hammering nails, and spending their 8 days away from Cornell—again, colleges all over the country are doing this, but they